



Newsletter

April 2008

Dignity & St. Ignatius Liturgy Schedules

Ravenna United Methodist Church	5751-33 rd Ave NE	Seattle
Every Sunday	→ 10:30 a.m.	St. Ignatius (UPSTAIRS)
April 13, May 11	→ 6:00 p.m.	Dignity/Seattle

Upcoming Events of Interest

WomenSpirit Center presents

Joan Chittister: Women, Power and Peace

Tuesday, April 15, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Seattle First Baptist Church
1111 Harvard Ave (at Seneca, Capitol Hill, Seattle)
Cost: Free will offering



Joan will be sharing the stage with the Dalai Lama in Seattle on Tuesday, April 15th. She has graciously offered a special presentation that evening for WomanSpirit Center.

Joan Chittister has been one of the Church's key visionary voices and spiritual leaders for more than 30 years. A Benedictine Sister of Erie, Pennsylvania, she is an award-

winning author and international lecturer on behalf of peace, human rights, women's issues, justice, and church renewal.

In Joan Chittister's inimitable way she poses questions which invite us to look at the effects of war and peace, especially on women. She references women in Hebrew scriptures, as well as in our contemporary world, to challenge all women and men to become leaders in the universal call to peace and justice for all people.

This is a free will offering event which will benefit the work of WomanSpirit Center of Bellevue and Benetvision, the Resource and Research Center for Contemporary Spirituality founded by Sr. Joan in Erie. Each of these organizations works to meet the needs of women. Come celebrate Women, Power and Peace with Joan Chittister.

More information: 425/641-1527
<http://www.womanspirit.bigstep.com/generic86.html>

Multifaith Works presents

Many Voices, One Song A Celebration of Musical Diversity

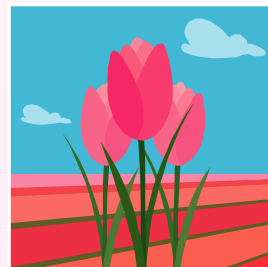
Friday, April 18, 7:00 p.m.
Seattle First Baptist Church
1111 Harvard Ave (at Seneca, Capitol Hill, Seattle)
Cost: \$15 in advance ~ \$20 at the door

This is Multifaith Works' annual entertainment fundraiser. Tickets presented at the concert will be eligible for a raffle drawing of a beautiful quilt valued at \$2000. Performers include:

- * The Esoterics, Seattle's most innovative chorus
- * ÆDONIS, An acapella men's ensemble
- * Seattle Kokon Taiko, Japanese American drum performance group
- * Captain Smartyants, Seattle Men's Chorus ensemble
- * Sankofa, African American women's ensemble
- * Center for Spiritual Living's Choir of Light

Ed. Note: Multifaith Works has been Dignity/Seattle's primary beneficiary of the Annual Pride Week Breakfast.

For information, please contact Multifaith Works:: 206/324-1520 or info@multifaith.org.



Inside:

Report on Womenpriest Liturgies, March 29-30. p. 2.

Michael Morwood visits Seattle, May 10. p. 3.

Roman Catholic Womanpriest celebrates Masses in Western Washington

By Leo N. Egashira

During the weekend of March 29-30, Roman Catholic Womanpriest Toni Tortorilla of Portland, Oregon came up to Seattle and Olympia to preside at two Masses for the Second Sunday of Easter. While officially billed as "ecumenical Eucharistic Liturgies" to which all were invited to receive the Eucharist, for all intents and purposes, the liturgies were Roman Catholic Masses.



The Seattle liturgy was held at Ravenna United Methodist Church on Saturday, March 29th. Deacon Ruth Broeski, also of Portland, was scheduled to assist Toni, but was unable to attend due to illness. Two married Catholic priests, Fr. Philip Knowles (affiliated with the Ecumenical Catholic Communion) and Fr. Umberto Lenzi (affiliated with the International Federation of Married Catholic Priests), served as co-presiders. The husband & wife team of Tom and Betty Hill, who lead Call to Action-Western Washington in Olympia, served as cantor and pianist. All the acolytes--readers, gift bearers and communion ministers--were women.

The non-patriarchal Creed which was recited was excerpted from Sr. Joan Chittister's writings; the Lord's Prayer was gender-inclusive, as well.

After Mass, the congregation was invited to stay and engage in a casual question-and-answer period with Toni. She was asked about her faith journey and how she became a priest. "I was called to the priesthood at age five. I always knew that, but I could not be an altar boy! In 1964, I was in junior college, during the Vatican II ferment. That led me to get a B.A. in theology." Since she obviously could not become a Catholic priest, she pursued a career in counseling. In 2005, at the Call To Action Conference in Milwaukee, Toni was exposed to Womanpriest and was put in contact with Bishop Patricia Fresen. With a Masters in Divinity and seminary training under her belt, Toni was ordained as a Roman Catholic Womanpriest in July 2007 in Portland and has fostered & led faith communities that meet monthly in Portland and Eugene.

The Olympia Liturgy on Sunday, March 30, was held at St. Benedict's Episcopal Church. The parish's vicar, the Rev. George Ann Boyle, concelebrated the mass with Toni. It was the coming together of two faith traditions in a kind of Eucharistic liturgical dance. It provoked the realization, for the 36 people who attended: "This is what it means to be church." (Paragraph submitted by Tom Hill.)



L-R

Umberto Lenzi

Toni Tortorilla

Philip Knowles

Like all priests who function outside official diocesan and order structures, Womenpriests such as Toni are "worker-priests" who need to support themselves. The model of church they embody is communitarian, ecumenical, non-hierarchical and democratic. In recognition that leaders are necessary in any community, there is a collaborative model of leadership that is developing.

Toni mentioned two upcoming ordination events. In April, the first U.S. woman priest will be ordained as a bishop in Europe, since three, current, willing officiating bishops need to be present for a bishop's ordination. When Dana Reynolds becomes a bishop, she will be the sixth woman bishop in the Roman Catholic tradition.

(continued next page →)

Three dozen people braved an unseasonably cold & wet or snowy Saturday afternoon to gather in celebration as Easter people. They represented "regular folks in the pews," nuns & priests, people of faith who are working for a more inclusive, welcoming Church, and a wide spectrum of the Catholic reform movement, including Call to Action, Dignity, Catholic Parents Support Group and others. Demographically, women represented two-thirds of the people present.

What was exceptional about this Mass was its normalcy. Like most liturgies in reform faith communities, the language was both ecumenical and inclusive. Toni's homily touched upon the parallels among Christ's Resurrection, the transfiguration of a Hindu guru after his death nearly 60 years ago, and the reality of Christ's presence in our own lives today.



Official Business

Dignity/Seattle Board Members

Paula Lavallee	President
Jim Rankin	Vice President
Denise Arceneaux	Secretary (Liturgy chair)
Delia Vita	Treasurer (Social co-chair)
Alan Scott	At large (Social co-chair)

DignityUSA Board Member from Seattle

Leo Egashira	At large (Communications)
--------------	---------------------------

Dignity/Seattle
P.O. Box 20325
Website
E-mail

206/325-7314
Seattle WA 98102
<http://www.DignitySeattle.org>
plandtish@aol.com

Newsletter Editor: Leo N. Egashira
206/723-4759
Legashira@yahoo.com

We provide a safe environment for people to reconcile our God-given gifts of sexual orientation and our Catholic faith through gay-affirming liturgies. Being part of the Dignity/Seattle family means claiming ownership of our faith and living up to the responsibilities of that ownership.

Next Board Meeting: 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 9, 2008, at Delia's home. (tentative)

Dignity/VancouverBC/Dignité

Box 3016 **604/432-1230**
Vancouver, B.C., V6B 3X5 **dennisl-h@telus.net**

Information on Dignity/Vancouver's Spring Schedule is to be decided April 7th, which is not in time for publication. Please telephone or e-mail D/V if you are planning to visit Vancouver, B.C. and would like to participate in liturgy, potluck dinners and other religious or social activities.

(continued from previous page)

Then, on June 7th, Deacon Ruth Broeski will be ordained as a priest in Portland.

In a lighter vein, someone asked Toni, "What do people call you?" She replied, "I prefer just being called 'Toni,' but when I was working out of a Lutheran Church, I was called 'Pastor Toni,' since that's what they call their clergy." She continued, "I've also been called 'Priest Toni,'" eliciting much laughter.

More info: <http://www.romancatholicwomenpriests.org>.
 CTA-Western Washington: <http://www.ctaww.org>.

Call to Action—Western Washington presents:

**Michael Morwood discusses his new book:
*From Sand to Solid Ground***

Saturday, May 10, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Seattle First Baptist Church

1111 Harvard Ave (at Seneca, Capitol Hill, Seattle)

Cost: \$25 before April 30, \$30 after. *Bring your own lunch; snacks and beverages will be provided.*

Internationally known speaker, author, and retreat director from Australia, Michael is currently touring the United States. Back by popular demand, this will be Michael's third visit with us. Michael answers questions of faith for Progressive Christians as presented in his latest book, *From Sand to Solid Ground*.



Many adult Christians eventually find themselves questioning what they once believed were the "essentials" of Christian faith. They find themselves caught in a domino effect: If I no longer believe this, then what about that . . . and so on.

Adult faith depends on how we can identify the "solid ground" on which to stand and recognize the "sand" for what it is. How can we recognize the essential teachings of Jesus in an ever-changing world? How can we create the "church" we want to experience? Michael Morwood's website: <http://www.morwood.org>.

A registration form can be downloaded from:

http://www.ctaww.org/coming_events.htm.

For more information, please contact: Tom and Betty Hill 360/357-6207, tombethill@comcast.net.

